REMARKS

I.   Introduction

Claims 1-19 were presented for examination and were rejected. By this amendment, applicants added new claims 20-27. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

II.   Rejections Based on Harper, U.S. Patent No. 5,537,141

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, and 15-19 as being anticipated by Harper. The examiner contends that Harper discloses the invention as claimed. The examiner also rejects claims 2 and 14 as being unpatentable over Harper in view of Dunn. The examiner contends that Harper discloses a PIR having a functionality of a VCR and set top box, but the examiner concedes that Harper does not disclose that the storage device includes functionality for fast forward, rewind, and pause. The examiner cites Dunn for these features. Claim 10 was rejected under §103 as being "anticipated by" [sic, unpatentable over] Harper in view of Bolnick. The examiner concedes that Harper does not disclosure that the PIR stores and plays back messages sent by other viewers using a chat functionality, but the examiner cites Bolnick for providing such a feature at paragraph 34 and in claim 12. Applicants traverse these rejections.

Harper relates to an interactive distance learning system in which the main point is the ability to provide different audio responses to a student based on a student's answer to a question. The idea is to use multiple audio channels: "as opposed to providing interactivity via multiple video channels, the provision of interactivity via multiple audio channels allows existing systems to be used." (Col. 5, lines 8-10). As also indicated at col. 5, lines 23-30, the system uses "one video signal with a plurality, two or more, of related embedded audio signals from a teacher control unit to multiple remote site locations." An example is provided at col. 25, lines 66 et seq. As indicated here, if a student gives an incorrect answer, a voice response describes how to get the correct answer, while a correct response will result in a different audio clip. These different audio responses are received by a classroom master unit where the video, audio, and data are extracted, and the audio is provided to a classroom master unit processor 178 (FIG. 1). The user then responds on a keypad, and the local processor 178 provides one of several different audio options. In addition, the answers can also be provided back to the teacher control system for statistical purposes.

The system in Harper thus provides all the data from one source in one feed as represented by the RF line in FIG. 1, and then is all provided together to an extractor 174 that extracts the video, audio, and data. Because a single feed is provided, there is no need to "temporally associate" different groups of information, or to associate them together during playback, because essentially the system is all operating on one feed.

For a claim to be anticipated, the cited reference must disclose all of the elements of a claim. In the present application, claim 1 includes a personal interactivity recorder "storing interactive content provided from a server system and related to the broadcast event and temporally associating the interactive content with the broadcast event." The examiner cites four sections of Harper for providing this element beginning at columns 3, 5, 6 and 19. In the section beginning at Col. 3, it states that "classroom scheduling conflicts or in different time zones can simply record the earlier broadcast and play back the interactive program at a later more convenient time. Recordability is possible since the audio and data driving the keypads at the remote cites are imbedded in the video signal creating a one-way broadcast technology." (Col. 3, line 64 – col. 4, line 2). This indicates that the recording is possible like any other recording because the signals are already imbedded in the video signal, but there is no indication of a recorder associating a broadcast event with interactive content provided from a server. The other sections identified by the examiner, namely col. 5, lines 7-37; col. 6, lines 42-57; and col. 19, lines 21-29 also do not teach or suggest the personal interactivity recorder as recited in claim 1.

In addition, it is unclear how Harper shows certain other features, such as the use of time codes or frame sequence numbers. The examiner cites several sections for support, but it is unclear how these sections disclose storing interactive content provided from a server system related to a broadcast event and temporally associating the interactive content with the broadcast event. The system of Harper broadcasts the video along with the data and audio content, so that there is no apparent need to temporally associate the interactive content with the broadcast event. The examiner also indicates that it would have obvious to modify using a chat functionality as in claim 7. However, the thrust of Harper appears to be a one-on-one student to teach relationship, so it would appear that a modification of this type would interfere with that relationship, and thus be contrary to the purpose of Harper.

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Claim 13 includes similar language to claim 1, namely "storing interactive content related to the broadcast event and transmitted at the time of the broadcast event and temporally associating the interactive content with the broadcast event.

With respect to the other references that are cited, these do not provide the missing components, but are cited for other features.

Dependent claims have been added. They should be allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

All claims should now be in condition for allowance, and accordingly a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues, the examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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